

Cross Systems Youth Task Force Meeting Minutes – August 28, 2014

I. Introduction

1. Attendance

Present: Jeff Bercovitz, Chris Blessinger, Rebecca “Becky” Buhner, Bruce Carter, Mike Commons, Suzanne Draper, Cathy Graham, Nichole Hall, JauNae Hanger, Judge Charles Pratt, Angela Reid-Brown, Kate Rusher, Dan Schroeder, Randal Taylor, Don Travis,

. Not Present: Mary Allen, Mary DePrez, Judge Steve Galvin (excused), Magistrate Heather Mollo, Michelle Woodward

2. Minutes

Approved from June 26th meeting.

II. Subcommittees

Distinguish between Dual Jurisdiction and Cross-Systems. Readdressed the difference between “dual jurisdiction” and “cross systems” youth. Dual Jurisdiction youth are involved in one, the other, or both, the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Cross systems youth may not be in the court system at all. They could be in multiple systems including education or mental health, as well as others.

Work Groups

Task Force members/agencies were assigned to the three work groups as follows:

Early Childhood: DMHA, JTAC, GAL/CASA, First-Steps

Middle-tier: IARCA (C. Graham, chair), DMHA, JTAC, Probation, GAL/CASA, JauNae Hanger, Cmdr. Taylor, Dan Schroeder, Bruce Carter, Mike Goodwin.

Transition: DOC (C. Blessinger, chair), DMHA, IARCA, JTAC, Probation, GAL/CASA

These assignments indicate that these agencies will assign a representative individual to the work group, or that the Task Force member will personally serve on the work group. Each Work Group should have at least one Task Force member to act as the chair to direct and delegate on behalf of the Task Force. The Work Groups can reach out beyond the Task Force Members for representatives.

The following additional non-member agencies and individuals were identified as possible assignments to the work groups:

Indiana University School of Social Work, Department of Health, the medical professional community, Magistrates Nancy Gettinger, local community department of health, Judge Heath to join the early childhood group because of his new program for paternity and early childhood. Task force members were asked to provide additional names to the co-chairs following the meeting.

III. System Gaps for Delinquents and Mental Health

Guests: JoAnne Price, JDAI Coordinator for Lake County; Nancy Wever, Indiana Judicial Center, JDAI

Discussed the case of a youth in an acute care facility suffering a mental health crisis being treated as a delinquent when he damaged the mental health facilities outside of the detention center. The group discussed the problem of youth ending up in the juvenile justice system as the only recourse to deliver mental health services to them. The trauma due to the placement of this population of children in juvenile detention causes a rapid deterioration in their behaviors. This could include severe depression or even self-harming. The guests, as well as the JDAI programs are happy to work together with the Task Force on getting all of the various groups around the state together to address the intersection of juvenile justice and mental health services.

IV. Community Mental Health Initiative and Community Mental Health Wraparound

Guest: Lisa Rich, DCS; Rebecca Buhner, DMHA; Josh Sprunger, National Alliance on Mental Illness – Indiana (NAMI).

Reported on the Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI) started in 2012. It allows children to have access to mental health services without having an open juvenile justice or child welfare case. There is a lack of coordinated crisis response for youth.

Wraparound is neither a crisis stabilization response, nor a community based response. There are positive steps being taken at the state level between DCS, DMHA, CMHI, and Systems of Care. However, local law enforcement often does not know where to take children suffering mental health crises and only nine (9) hospitals in the state take children in crisis. More intensive help is needed.

V. Fort Wayne Police Department Mental Health Initiative

Guest: Liza Thomas, School Resource Officer, Ft. Wayne Police Department

Ft. Wayne is holding a training in February 2015 on Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT).

This training is available for law enforcement, school personnel and nurses. The purpose of having CIT is to keep children suffering from a mental health crisis from unnecessary detention. All personnel that come in contact with youth should be CIT trained.

VI. Updates

Pew Commission – Status Offenders; there are certain status offenses that have a disproportionate number of detentions/commitments to DOC. More research is needed.

Children's Policy and Law Initiative – Summit being held on October 7 and 8, 2014.

Addressing Status Offender issues and the decriminalization of certain youth based on age.

Casey Family Programs Judicial Engagement – The invitation for Indiana to be involved was initially declined. There will be another meeting in September to discuss dual jurisdiction youth pilots.

VII. Next meeting dates (on agenda)

October 30, 2014 1:00 – 3:00 (Status Offenders, homeless youth, runaways and human trafficking)

December 18, 2014 1:00 – 3:00